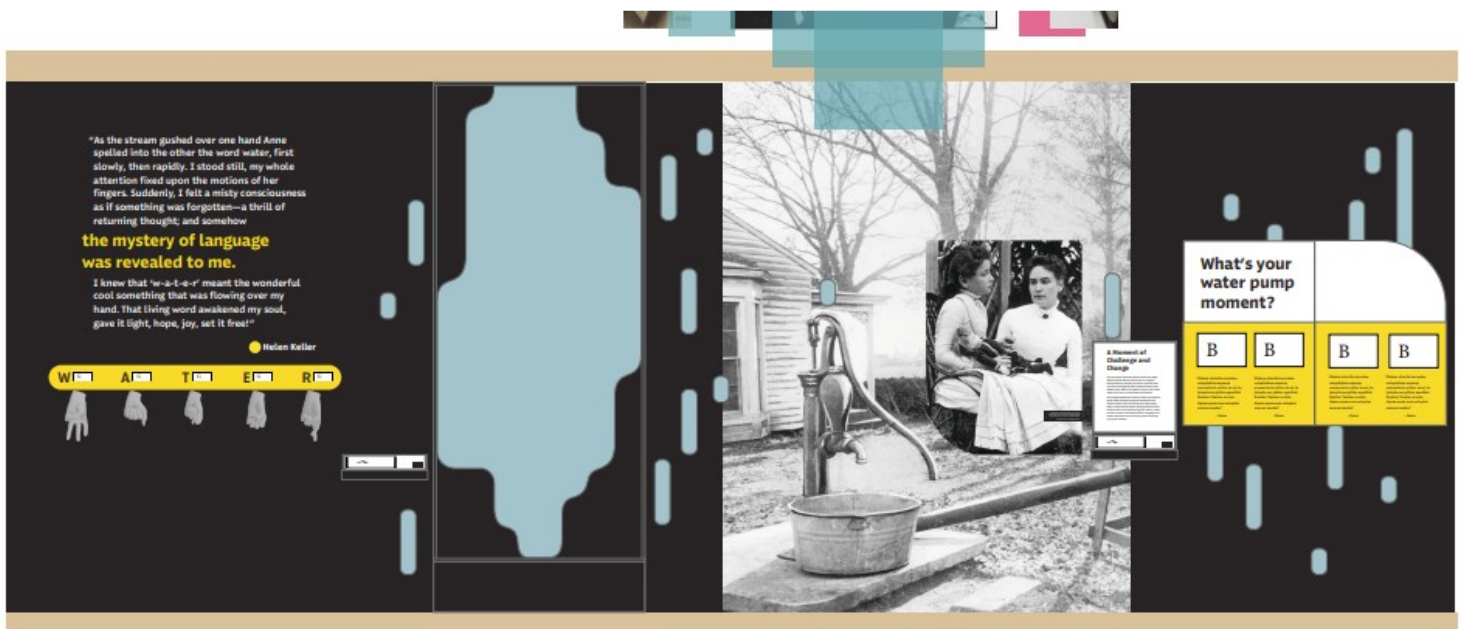


The Proper Pump

June 3, 2024

Background:

The question arose during the Solid Light / APH / PAC workshop in early May about the pump picture we had specified to use within the Helen Keller Gallery and the design of the pump we will be creating or procuring. We noticed that the pump presently displayed at Ivy Green / Helen Keller Birthplace does not look the same as “the pump” as we know it from historic photos etc. Additionally, the historic photo in the AFB Helen Keller Archive appears to be “doctored” and that raised further



questions about which pump is the proper pump?

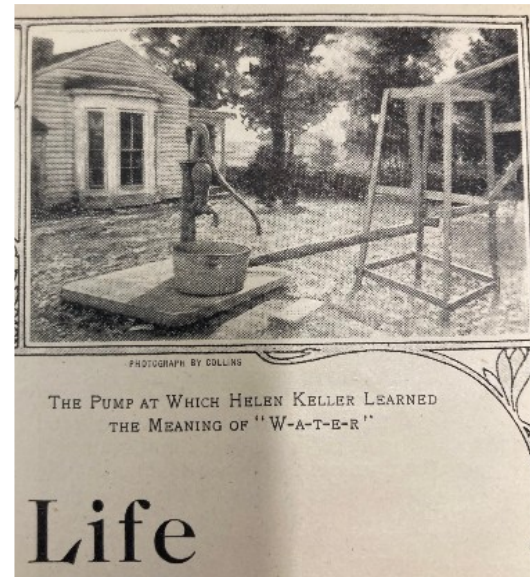
Investigation:

Justin, Kathy, and Mike went straight away into research mode.

Here's what they learned: The pump presently on display at Ivy Green, according to the Executive Director, was found under a shed on the property and they have “always assumed it was Helen’s pump”. We learned *The Miracle Worker* production team came to Ivy Green and copied that pump for the movie.

In terms of our AFB HK Archive photo, it has been “shopped” with black, grey, and white paint - an extremely common thing to be done to photographs for newspaper and other publications to improve clarity. The 1887 picture shows THE original pump. The 1887 photo is absolutely in the same geographic place in front of the office that the “shed pump” now stands. The picture was taken when Helen was 7 - the photography studio seal and man visible on the side date it well. That the “shed pump” was found elsewhere says, if nothing else, that it was not still in situ from

"the water pump moment." Ivy Green pumps have clearly been moved at some point.



Determination:

It has been ascertained that "the original pump" from "the water pump moment" is pictured above. The photo on the left is a high res photo in the archive. The newspaper clipping on the right above is from Ladies Home Journal and is very small and low quality. It cannot be enlarged. This is the pump design that will be used in The Dot Experience gallery and the recreated or procured pump will mirror the design of this one. The original photo in the archive is our most authentic, and high enough quality to be enlarged as it needs to be. We will work with Solid Light to ensure it does not look "fake" in the very large format it will appear.

Continued Research:

APH has recently secured a sponsorship for the water pump area of the gallery, from Zoeller Pump Company. Zoeller has a subsidiary, Flint & Walling, who have been in business since 1866 producing hand-operated water pumps. There is some sense that Helen's pump may have been a Flint & Walling pump. Zoeller has asked Flint & Walling to assign us one of their historians to vet this idea. This is now initiated via email 5/22/2024 via Eric Rimmel, President of Flint & Walling.

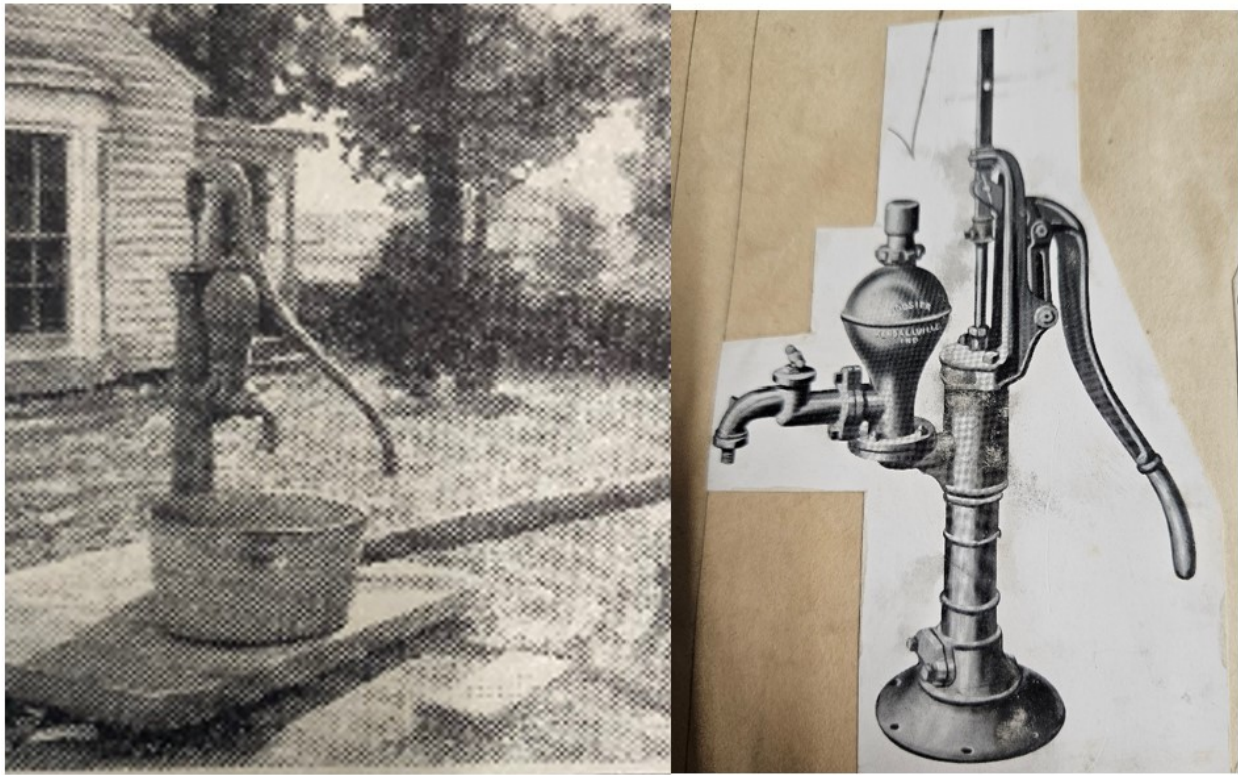
ericr@flintandwalling.com

<https://flintandwalling.com/about-us/150th-anniversary/>

Flint & Walling Findings:

Eric Rimmel looked at approximately 100 pictures of their past product, and cannot definitively state their product has a direct link to our picture.

Their most similar model – in the picture below, of the Hoosier 260 – has similar features but it does not match the Helen Keller pump to their best interpretation.



He also tried to find a picture that may be of interest in identifying the manufacture of “Helen’s pump” on various websites, hoping to give us a logical next step in knowing its origin, but was unsuccessful.

Pump History Experts:

Kathy will continue to investigate with her network of history experts.

Update: No new information here.